

IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

News You
Can Use

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A NEWS BULLETIN FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO, THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS—COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM AND THE IDAHO COMMUNITY FORESTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL

***What Idaho city can claim that 4% of
its residents are on the tree board?***

Coordinator's Column

And Now a Word From our Sponsors — Recognizing those who provide us the “green”

The assistance the Idaho Department of Lands provides for your community's forestry projects comes from a number of different sources. While the USDA Forest Service provides the bulk of our funding, Idaho cities also benefit from the financial contributions from four other organizations.

Nearly one-quarter of all Idaho cities have received one or more of the 70 Community Transportation Enhancement (CTE) Grants awarded over the past seven years. While we administer the program and provide technical assistance to communities for these projects, the Idaho Transportation Department has provided all the funding for these grants (\$750,000 to date).

The resulting landscapes strengthen our downtown business districts, shade and beautify our main streets and improve the overall health and quality of our cities. The success of your community projects and the benefits they provide to surface transportation in your city are the primary reasons that last year the Idaho Transportation Board approved an increase in the annual funding available for these grants from \$100,000 to \$162,000 per year.

Another of our programs—the Arbor Day grants—is the result of three different sponsors—Avista Utilities, Idaho Power, and Rocky Mountain Power (formerly Utah Power). Over the past four years, these companies have provided a total of more than \$40,000 to help communities across the state celebrate Arbor Day. Over the past ten years, 75% of Idaho Cities have received one of the more than 600 Arbor Day grants awarded.

So whether it's preparing announcements and agendas for your Arbor Day celebration or talking to reporters about your project, please mention the generous assistance provided by the Idaho Transportation Department, Avista Utilities, Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power. These are ways we can all recognize and acknowledge their assistance and thank them for helping us make our cities even better.

-- David Stephenson

Community Forestry Coordinator

Boise is a 'Reference City' for STRATUM

So, what the heck is STRATUM? This is a new street tree management and analysis tool that uses inventory data and shows the annual dollar value of benefits provided by city trees. Its formal name is Street Tree Resource Assessment Tool for Urban Forest Managers. However, what it can do for you is the important thing. It quantifies ecosystem services provided by trees such as energy savings, air quality improvement, carbon dioxide reduction, storm water control and property value increases.

The program is part of a group of urban forestry tools being placed online by the USDA Forest Service. Boise Urban Forestry, a unit of the Boise Parks & Recreation Department, with support from the Idaho Department of Lands' Community Forestry Program, gathered data as a representative city in one of 20 climate zones in the U.S. When STRATUM is fully operational, cities throughout southern Idaho will benefit from Boise's baseline data and will be able to do their own benefit-cost analyses based on their own tree inventories.

Where the tool has already been used, such as in Kent, Ohio, the results can be surprising. In Kent, it was found that its trees provide over \$1 million in services each year and for every \$1 invested in the city's tree care program, \$4 of benefits are realized. For more information on STRATUM and other programs in what is called the “i-TREE suite,” visit www.itreetools.org.



Brian Jorgenson

Aren Dottenwhy of the Davey Research Group received a ride to the tree tops from Steve Markel, Boise Urban Forestry. Aren was collecting leaf samples for the different species in Boise for use in determining typical leaf area. In turn, these will help the Forest Service calculate benefits provided by trees throughout the region.